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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

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**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**SCHOOL**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**

For the Year 1942.



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SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
BEDFORD.  
*August, 1944.*

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors, and the Members  
of the Education Committee of the Borough of Bedford.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1942. The production of this report has been delayed on account of the war.

My thanks are due to the Director of Education and his staff, and to the staff of the School Medical Service for their co-operation in carrying out the work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. K. BOWES,

*School Medical Officer.*

# Annual Report

## OF THE

# School Medical Officer

for the year 1942.

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On account of war-time conditions this report will be considerably curtailed.

The average school population during the year 1942 was 6,107, of which 4,788 were classified as residents, and 1,319 as evacuees. The number of children classified as evacuees showed a tendency to diminish during the year. At the same time, the number of children classified as resident includes a number who have become residents on account of the condition of the war.

### SCOPE OF INSPECTION.

The scheme of inspections remained as during the previous year.

### NUTRITION.

To speak generally the nutritional condition of the children was very good.

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following figures relating to school milk and meals.

The return made to the Board of Education in October, 1942, showed that 62.5% of Bedford children and 79% of evacuee children or 73% of the total children on the elementary school rolls were having milk as against 60.8% in October, 1941. The actual numbers were as follows :—

No. of Bedford children having milk ...	...	...	...	2967
No. of Evacuee children having milk ...	...	...	...	813
No. of Bedford children having 2 bottles daily	...	...	...	466
No. of Evacuee children having 2 bottles daily	...	...	...	170

Free milk supplies were arranged throughout the year for 217 necessitous under-nourished children, of whom 169 were evacuees, as compared with a total of 252 in the previous year.

The Education Committee's Meals Scheme for 1942-43 provided for the distribution of dinners from 3 school feeding centres to the 20% of school



population whose parents had expressed a wish in reply to an enquiry sent to all the homes in November, 1941. The first of these kitchens, at the Harpur Trust Selective Central School, opened on the 6th October, 1942, and at the end of December was providing dinners to some 240 children daily on five days a week during term time. This number includes some 107 daily dinners sent by van to 3 other school departments. The Education Committee are prepared in necessitous cases to provide meals without charge, but the call for this concession is negligible.

### **PEDICULOSIS.**

The number of individual children found unclean was 883 (including 722 residents and 161 evacuees) as compared with 1,133 (including 769 residents and 363 evacuees) in the previous year.

Treatment was available at the Cleansing Station for children found verminous. Action was taken under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921, to secure compulsory cleansing in 3 cases.

### **SCABIES.**

This condition remained prevalent during the year under review. In all 88 cases (including 52 residents and 36 evacuees) were discovered at inspections in schools and at the clinics among school children. The total number of cases, in which the figures just given are included, whether discovered through the School Medical Service or from notifications from doctors or enquiries by the Health Visitors, was 289 resident children and 85 evacuees. There was no change in the arrangements for treatment.

### **CONCLUSION.**

The conclusion remains, as in previous reports, that war conditions generally have caused no deterioration, but in some respects rather an improvement in the condition of the children's health.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

Year Ended 31st December, 1942.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Children Attending Public Elementary Schools.

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.			
(1) No. of Inspections :			
Entrants 867(105) Second Age Group 601(182) Third Age Group 546(97)			
Total			2014(384)
(2) No. of other Routine Inspections :			
Grand Total			2014 (384)
B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.			
No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... ..			6909(1861)

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2014 (384)	1115 (217)	55.36 (56.51)	852 (156)	42.30 (40.63)	47 (11)	2.33 (2.86)	— —	— —

TABLE III.

Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... ..								1577(536)
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Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

(Under the Authority's Scheme.)

Errors of Refraction (including squint) ... ..	372(115)
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ...	1 (0)
Total ... ..	373(115)
No. of Children for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed ... ..	255 (81)
(b) Obtained ... ..	234 (78)

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

(Under the Authority's Scheme.)

*Received Operative Treatment ... ..	—
Received other forms of Treatment ... ..	—
Total Number treated ... ..	—
* By private doctor or at Hospital apart from Authority's Scheme ... ..	51 (10)

N.B.—Figures in brackets denote evacuees included in total.



**TABLE IV.**  
**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.**

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :									
(a) Routine age-groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7225(1427)
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	513 (117)
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7738(1544)
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3828 (803)
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2709 (665)
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4117 (964)
(5) Half-days devoted to :—									
Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53 (6)
Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	495 (66)
						Total	...	...	548 (72)
(6) Fillings :—									
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1341 (372)
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 (3)
						Total	...	...	1347 (375)
(7) Extractions :—									
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	696 (151)
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3637 (629)
						Total	...	...	4333 (780)
(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1630 (363)
(9) Other Operations :—									
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1221 (246)
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
						Total	...	...	1221 (246)

**TABLE V.**  
**VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.**

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16743(3349)
(iii) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	883 (161)
(iv) Number of <i>individual</i> children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—								
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

**TABLE VI.**  
**BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.**

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are *not* at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

	1. At a Public Elementary School	2. At an institution other than a Special School	3. At no School or Institution
Blind Children	1 girl. Almost totally blind. Opticatrophy.*	—	—
Deaf Children	—	—	—

\* Admitted to Special School on 11th January, 1943.

N.B.—Figures in brackets denote evacuees included in total.

